Stimulus Funding Proposal

1. Title of Proposal:  College Source Transfer Evaluation System (TES)
2. Initiator:  Michelle La Centra, Articulation Officer, APGS
3. Total funds requested: $6,550
   Justification:  The price is for a one year unlimited access site license for the software. After one year, it is expected that the CSU will have negotiated a consortium price that will further reduce the price for each CSU campus.
4. Brief description of project:

College Source is a service used by universities, including most if not all CSUs, to access information about public and private colleges nationwide. It contains information from nearly 4000 institutions in a database, and includes course catalogs and profiles of colleges, as well as all course titles, descriptions, codes, and numbers of credits. This system may be used across campus by academic chairs, faculty and department office staff, the General Education office, advisors, evaluators, articulation officers, etc. The price of a limited type of this service ($2,000 annually) is currently shared by PEMSA and APGS. However, for $6,550, we can have access to an enhanced version of its services called TES for Transfer Evaluation System. This enhanced version includes a powerful search engine that allows users to easily search for course titles and descriptions, provide course descriptions to departments/evaluators for articulation decisions, compare course catalogs among universities to see which have matching courses, etc. This enables faculty, advisors, evaluators, and articulation staff to determine quickly and easily if equivalency requests are valid, if courses and/or programs can be articulated among universities, if courses taken at other universities satisfy CSUEB requirements, and to determine if partnerships with other universities might be feasible. The approval process can be tracked and notes can be added by users. Course equivalencies can be created and managed between institutions.

5. Expected outcomes and target audience of the project:

The availability of this valuable resource for faculty, advisors and evaluators across campus would reduce the time spent by staff individually searching for university catalogs and for individual courses and descriptions within those catalogs, and would enhance student progress toward graduation by reducing transfer evaluation time for majors, GE, and graduation requirement courses. It would be used by faculty advisors, department chairs, staff advisors, evaluators, and articulation staff. The target audience would be transfer students, in particular those from institutions not in the ASSIST database in California, as well as other higher education institutions throughout the U.S. and many other countries and expected outcome would be reduced time for transcript evaluation at transfer and at graduation.
6. Strategic impact/benefits:
   It is expected that time and effort expended in evaluation of transcripts will be decreased, accuracy of transcript evaluations will be increased, articulation agreements will be enhanced, and ability of students to plan which courses are needed for graduation will be improved, thus decreasing time to graduation.

7. Timeline: Fees could be paid as soon as funding was approved and access would start immediately.

8. Potential Barriers to success:
   Access codes would need to be developed and administered by someone, a task that the Articulation Officer has agreed to undertake. The availability of this service would need to be communicated to the campus community which would be accomplished via information presented at UUAC and at Chairs Academies but training would not be necessary because it is available via free webinars from College Source.